



Dear family members, friends and clients (who are also our friends),

Bill and I are asking for your help with a special project that started at our preschool. I have talked with the children many times about the Katrina Hurricane and the victims that the children see on television. I do this to reduce their anxiety and help them understand this is not a Hollywood movie. I also reassure them that they are safe. Last Wednesday some of my students decided they wanted to help. Alyssa wanted to bring three families home to her house so she could give them three toys and some milk. Conner wanted to catch the bad guys that made this happen to "lock 'em up". Conner announced he wanted to keep all of his toys but suggested Tyler (his four months old brother) had plenty of toys he hardly uses. What was important is the children had automatically moved from understanding this disaster to wanting to help people. So, we are on a mission to prove to them that we all can and should be helpful at times like these.

I know most of you, like Bill and I, gave money very quickly. But I told the children they could bring new or like new toys and their childhood crib blankets to school to donate. Displaced children can use the toys and children and the elderly can use the blankets (for lap robes). I am asking my adult participants to donate denture adhesive and feminine hygiene products. These, I can assure you are not popular items but are very necessary. Non perishable food is needed always. Bill will deliver to the Thurston County Food Bank and other chosen drop off points that the people of Evergreen Operations will direct us to.

Wee Plan-It children are including pictures they made and letters they have composed to be included with their special donations. It is true that we can individually use this unbelievable disaster to model generosity and compassion to our children. A Childs ability to respond to the suffering of others is powerful and should be encouraged by all of us.

The newspaper reports that about five hundred displaced Americans will start arriving this week in the State of Washington. The children and Bill and I will work on this drive through this coming Sunday. Bill will make deliveries next Monday where ever Operations Evergreen tells him to go.

Thank you and God Bless,
Michelle and Bill Sokoloski